

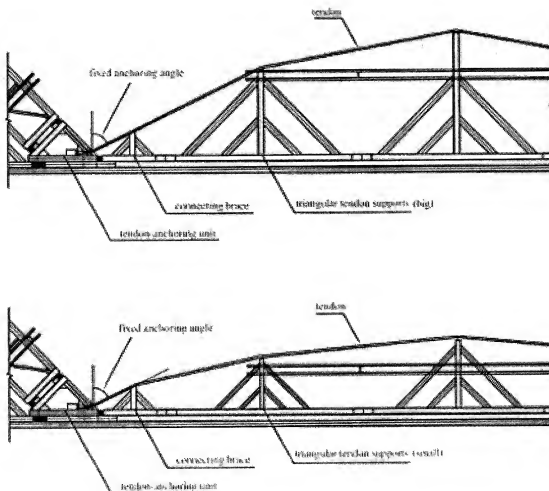
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 63-019334 to Hosaka et al. ("Hosaka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,237,717 to Jackson and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,710,578 to Inoue. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a "prestressed scaffolding system for supporting an excavated earth retaining wall by forming a polygonal closed section, comprising: a tendon; a prestressed wale comprising a plurality of triangular tendon supports, being in contact with the tendon, in a middle portion of said wale, a tendon-anchoring unit at both ends of said wale, and a connecting brace for connecting the tendon to said triangular tendon supports and to said tendon-anchoring unit; and a strut constituted by a truss or a plurality of H-beams or an H-beam having a large cross section and supporting said tendon-anchoring unit."

The claimed invention can be used in large excavation work where large compression forces are needed to support retaining walls. Under these conditions, bending of the tendon in the tendon-anchoring unit may lead to early tendon failure. This bending can be caused by using tendon supports of varying heights with the same tendon-anchoring unit. To prevent this, a connecting brace is used to connect the tendon between the triangular tendon supports and the tendon-anchoring unit. The connecting brace maintains the anchoring angle of the tendon at a fixed value to prevent any unnecessary bending of the tendon. This is shown in the illustration below where the anchoring angle of the tendon is fixed even though the size of the tendon supports vary.



Hosaka discloses a waling that employs a single tendon support 12 that is a column, where the tendon runs from the support 12 directly to an anchoring unit. In contrast, claim 1 recites “a prestressed wale comprising a plurality of triangular tendon supports ... and a connecting brace for connecting the tendon to said triangular tendon supports and to said tendon-anchoring unit.” (Emphasis added). Thus, Hosaka does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Jackson is directed a safety rigging for roofers wherein “the roof rigging includes a plurality of longitudinally spaced apex brackets 20.” Jackson, col. 1, lines 63-65. Thus, Jackson does not disclose a “prestressed wale comprising a plurality of triangular tendon supports ... and a

connecting brace for connecting the tendon to said triangular tendon supports and to said tendon-anchoring unit,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, Hosaka in view of Jackson does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Inoue is relied on to teach a utility of struts and does not remedy the deficiencies of Hosaka and Jackson. Thus, claim 1 is patentable in view of Hosaka, Jackson and Inoue. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosaka in view of Inoue. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 recites “a prestressed scaffolding system forming a polygonal closed section only by using a prestressed wale comprising a tendon, a plurality of triangular tendon supports, being in contact with the tendon, in the middle portion of said wale, a tendon-anchoring unit at both ends of said wale, and a connecting brace for connecting the tendon to said triangular tendon supports and to said tendon-anchoring unit.”

Neither Hosaka nor Inoue disclose a “prestressed wale comprising a tendon, a plurality of triangular tendon supports ... and a connecting brace for connecting the tendon to said triangular tendon supports and to said tendon-anchoring unit,” as recited by claim 8. Thus, claim 8 and its dependent claim, claim 9 are patentably. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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